



PROJECT: Von Steuben/Northside Prep, Cook County, Illinois

AUTHORITY: WRDA 1996

TYPE: Continuing Authority, Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project includes stabilizing the riverbank, restoring native species, and improving aquatic habitat at two sites along the North Shore Channel and the North Branch of the Chicago River, North Side Prep and Von Steuben Sites. Von Steuben is a school located between Kimball and Spaulding Avenues along the banks of the North Branch of the Chicago River. This project consists of approximately 800 feet of river frontage. Currently the river embankment is fairly stable but shows severe signs of erosion at the water edge. The current vegetation blocks out light that prevents the site from maintaining low-lying vegetation that is essential to the ecosystem and the stabilization of the banks. North Side Prep is a new school located near West Bryn Mawr and North Kedzie Avenues along the banks of the North Shore Channel of the Chicago River. This project consists of approximately 1500 feet of river frontage. Construction of North Side Preparatory School was finalized in 1999. As a part of this construction, a detention pond and some grading took place near the top of embankment of the river. No construction improvements were made beyond the top of the bank. The existing river slope is severely eroded, unstable, and overgrown with undesirable vegetation. Unstable banks will be stabilized with an appropriate treatment along the slope. Bio-engineered solutions including A-jacks blocks or soil lift walls will be used where possible. Retaining walls will be used to facilitate path development on the slope. Severely eroding banks will be re-graded to create a gentler slope, thereby allowing for establishment of stabilizing vegetation. An erosion control blanket will be installed to provide additional assurance of stream bank integrity. Invasive and non-native species will be removed concurrently with bank re-grading. The re-graded slopes will be stabilized with appropriate native plant communities. Additional project features at these sites include managing public access to protect the banks and restore the vegetation. Paths and overlooks will be constructed where appropriate to permit continued access to the sites while preventing damage to the riverbank and the restored wetlands.

CURRENT STATUS: The Preliminary Restoration Plan approved in September 1999, the Ecosystem Restoration Report approved in October 1999, and the Project Cooperation Agreement signed October 1999.

PLANNED WORK:

FY 01: Complete plans and specifications, award construction contract and initiate construction.

FY02: Complete construction.

PROJECT COST:

Federal Cost	\$2,600,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$1,400,000
Total Cost	\$4,000,000

BENEFITS: The project will correct erosion problems, restore native plant species, improve fish habitat and manage public access through the project area. Restoration will improve water quality and enhance habitat for aquatic and terrestrial resources.

LOCAL SPONSORS: The City of Chicago is the Local Sponsor.

ISSUES/CONCERNS: None

PROJECT MANAGER: Kirston Buczak